



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

August 29, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread – 91 N. Hamilton Road

Topics of Discussion

Economic Development Plan

- Currently on the agenda for first reading for Council to adopt; said we are not actually built out for economic development; plan recommends 7 areas of the City to reinvest in; very happy with the west side area; keep in mind this is not a project just a strategy plan; resident asked if it was City project to re-do the road; yes but we need the businesses first; resident said the problem with plans, people think it is a project; said on the west side the traffic flow is increased; the owner of the property impacted is on board; resident said roundabouts are being taken out in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; wish we would have looked at those first; the plan addresses the concerns of the roads on the west side; the City needs to decide what to invest in.

Strategic Plan

- Headed by Jennifer Teal, our Assistant City Administrator and Director of Finance; taking two firms to get what we want and need; one firm was better at community engagement and the other was better at measuring the results; said Hilliard spent nearly a million dollars on their plan; resident said there should be a big difference in what the firms do with their price difference; all about transparency and getting a good idea of who our community is; we did an RFP to get firms to respond; we are spending money to be able to come up with more funds in the future; believes we spent \$400,000 in the 1980s for a master plan; this plan will be strategic and not tactical projects; resident asked how many focus groups there will be; have not focused on that yet; still working out all of the mechanics; resident said the communication with the public and advertisement of the meetings is the biggest problem in this community.

Governance Commission Public Hearing

- Only a small turnout; people are really busy; resident feels commission should be more welcoming with Q&A from public.

Committee Room Renovation

- Resident said he came to Committee on Monday and the room was too full so he went home; another resident said she could not hear anything in Council Chambers; have to make it welcoming to get residents to come; there is a proposal to open up the room and get a new microphone system in Council Chambers; resident suggested microphones in the meeting or having Committee in Council Chambers; said Committee is supposed to be informal; will work on hearing and the setting.

Hamilton Road Widening

- Morse Road widening is part of the project; resident said she thought she heard a portion of the widening was put up for bid; not sure it is in the works; will check the status of the Hamilton Road widening north of Morse Road.

Shops at Rocky Fork

- Resident said the development on Hamilton Road is disturbing; the City does not have the right to mandate who can build in the City; there were offers to home owners north of the shops but the application has dropped off; resident upset that there are no new shops on the west side; shops do not want to do business there and the City cannot make them; this plan will address those concerns; said we want jobs and full time jobs at more than minimum wage.

Good Samaritan Property

- Resident asked what happened with the purchase; heard they are finishing the contract and the City will purchase that land; will be used for parkland; the feedback showed that apartments in the area was not received well; resident asked about what is being purchased; they said 8 acres, which is the vacant land; resident does not believe the west side is suffering from lack of parkland; does not believe we should own more than we can maintain or afford.

Citizen Initiative Petition

- Resident upset the City is asking to raise taxes; Council is not putting this on the ballot; this is a citizen initiative tax; does not involve the City.

Big Walnut Trail Section 5

- Resident asked if it will be on the Golf Course side; yes, the City is moving forward with it; will be down lower near the course; will not alter the greens; resident said could have eliminated the fence and the golf course issue by going on the other side of the road; would have had to involve more people; resident would like the Parks Director to call him to discuss; the fence is required because of the location; resident said would not have to deal with this if it was on the other side of the road.